



POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF JUNE 1, 2022

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Manchester Police Department
405 Valley Street
Manchester, NH 03103

The Regular Monthly Meeting was held at the Manchester Police Department Community Room on June 1, 2022, at 9:00am, attended by:

Commissioners John Cronin, Manny Content, Eva Castillo, Charlie Sherman and John Mercier

Police Department Staff Chief Allen Aldenberg (via Zoom), Assistant Chief Steve Mangone, Captain Peter Marr, Captain Shawn McCabe, Captain Brandon Murphy, Captain Christopher Goodnow, Lieutenant Patrick Houghton, Lieutenant Timothy Patterson, Lieutenant Matthew Barter, Heather Hamel (PIO), Emily Cleary (Crime Analyst) Diane Kingsbury (Admin. Assist.)

Others attending the Public Session: Manchester business owner and blogger Jeff Hastings, Alderman At-Large June Trisciani, Manchester business owner Yasamin Safarzadeh and Manchester business owner Amber Nicole Canaan.

1. COMMISSION CHAIRMAN OPENING COMMENTS

- Commissioner Cronin opened the meeting at 9:01a.m., welcoming all those present.

2. NOTICES POSTED / APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- The Commission confirmed with Diane Kingsbury that the notices had been posted at the City Library as well as on the MPD's website homepage, event calendar, and via social media.
- Commissioner Cronin abstained, however, all other commissioners present voted to approve the minutes from the 5/4/22 meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Cronin explained that each Manchester resident wishing to speak shall state his/her name and address, each will have only one opportunity to speak, and will be limited to three minutes in which to address comments on a particular subject to the Commission.

- Yasamin Safarzadeh spoke regarding the mural on the rail trail being defaced and shared her disappointment with the response she received from Manchester Police when she called to report it. Commissioner Cronin advised that this will be looked into.
- Amber Nicole Canaan spoke regarding her challenges over the years dealing with MPD dispatch regarding bicycle issues and having her requests to file a report declined. Ms. Canaan also inquired if there is any way to track when calls are made to Dispatch and reports are not taken. Captain Marr advised that we do not have the staffing to track that type of information but encouraged Ms. Canaan to call a supervisor at the station to advise if/when she feels her calls are not being handled properly as we have a process in place to investigate such allegations.
- Jeff Hastings shared an experience where he was covering a recent 'burglary in progress' incident where streets were blocked off and officers had long guns out. From where he was, he witnessed interaction involving pointing and screaming between subjects at the location and officers - he speculated that the escalation was due to a language barrier. Once 2 Spanish speaking Manchester Police officers arrived on scene, they were able to quickly de-escalate the situation and have a calmer and more productive interaction. He wanted to compliment the department and the officers.

4. DIVISIONAL REPORTS

Special Enforcement Division – Captain Murphy:

- Monthly S.W.A.T. training: 6/9 – firearms training
- The Special Investigations Unit continues efforts to disrupt the possession and sale of illegal drugs in the City of Manchester. Currently, the division is engaged in several investigations with state and federal partners targeting mid and high level drug trafficking organizations. One extensive year-long case has recently resulted in several arrests with a few more to come. We continue to see an increase in the presence of Crystal methamphetamine.
- The Street Crime Unit continues to address the street level possession and distribution of illegal drugs as well as investigate numerous problem locations reported by the public. As a result of these efforts, several high profile problem locations have been shut down and continue to be addressed on a weekly basis.
- The Anti-Crime Unit continues efforts to disrupt the illegal possession of firearms associated with gun violence. The unit has several active investigations with state and local partners and continues to make arrests associated with gun violence and other related violent crimes. Career development officers have proven highly effective in supporting unit investigations as well as providing additional hotspot patrols.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Commissioner Sherman inquired about the timeframe from when a location is investigated to when a drug bust is made. Captain Murphy advised that there is no standard formula to determine this and it varies from case to case.
- Commissioner Sherman asked if Manchester Police works with any task forces and was advised by Captain Murphy that Manchester works jointly with DEA, FBI, State police and US Marshals.
- Commissioner Content commented that he knows the end result of drug trafficking cases are well communicated when they are addressed and handled in Manchester, however, he has not seen much information regarding drug cases addressed in the pipeline to Manchester and inquired if that information is purposely kept quiet. Captain Murphy advised that the US Attorney is responsible for those press releases.
- Commissioner Content asked if there are any red flags for the community to be aware of as it relates to drug trafficking. Captain Murphy advised that he believes the community is in tune and aware and has been doing a good job relaying suspicious information to us for follow up.

Community Affairs Division – Captain Goodnow

- Events within the next 30 days: **6/2** – Eversource/Easter Seals 5K Run/Walk at Veterans Park, **6/5** – NH Heart Walk at Livingston Park, **6/9** – Happy Hour Hustle at Rockingham Trail, **6/9** – Light Up the Night 5K at McIntyre Ski Area, **6/12** – Bagels and Biscuits 5K at Derryfield Park, **6/12** – Walk For Hope at Elliot Hospital, **6/18** – Angel City Music Hall Pin Up Party/Car Show at Hayward/Willow, **6/18** – Queen City Pride Parade/Festival at Arms Park/Commercial Street, **6/30** – Happy Hour Hustle at West Side Ice Arena.
- Traffic Investigators still working on several past crashes as well as **5/27** – Valley/Union motorcycle vs vehicle crash with serious injury and **5/21** – Lake Avenue juvenile pedestrian crash (operator arrested OUID).
- Community Policing Events: Senior Walks continuing on Mondays, Citizens Police Academy graduation tonight, Cops & Kids events throughout the month (about 2 events per week), Mounted Unit has numerous daily events planned, School Security Assessments with Officer Linstad in conjunction with Homeland Security, Bike Rodeo/Child Safety and Helmet giveaway on 6/25 at MPD, NET Team checks of locations throughout the city.
- Continuing to work extensively with Homeless Coordinator, Schonna Green.
- Community Policing officers have attended numerous community meetings over the past month.
- MPAL Events – boxing, Judo, cooking classes, etc.
- Worked with the Moore Center and the 'Just in Case' program to run an event at MPD to register vulnerable children and adults. The event was a great success, enrolling over 20 new participants.
- Officer Ell is continuing his duties as Community Policing Coordinator and working with the Health Department to reach vulnerable individuals throughout the community and connect them with the proper resources.
- Officer Ell also performed numerous CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) assessments for local businesses, parks and houses of worship.
- Reacted to and addressed numerous complaints arising from the feedback obtained through our attendance at the many community meetings.

Administrative Division – Captain Marr

- There are currently three subjects in their seventh week of dispatcher training.
- Dispatch is working with the Fire Department to install the Valor 911 screen in dispatch, which provides a real time display of what the 911 dispatchers in Concord are putting into the system. It should be in place this month.
- We passed our CJIS Audit conducted by the FBI in May.
- At our most recent Dispatch test, 4 candidates showed up and 3 passed.
- There is one open position at the Front Counter due to a recent resignation.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Jeff Hastings asked how many vacancies are currently in Dispatch and was advised by Captain Marr that there are 4 vacancies (this takes into account the 3 new dispatchers who are still training)
- Commissioner Sherman asked if our dispatchers are trained to provide CPR guidance when necessary on an emergency call. Captain Marr advised that our dispatchers are not trained to provide medical assistance and further explained that all 911 calls are routed through Concord and then subsequently dispatched to the appropriate emergency response personnel throughout the state. Typically, medical calls are directed to fire departments and non-medical calls are directed to police departments.
- Commissioner Castillo asked how dispatch decides if/when to send an officer to a call and how calls are prioritized. Captain Marr advised that calls are triaged based on the type of call – violent, in-progress crimes take priority and past tense calls without suspect information are typically sent to our front counter staff to take reports.
- Commissioner Content asked if all calls receive a police response. Captain Marr advised that all calls do receive a response at some point. Since our calls are triaged with high priority going to violent and in-progress crimes,

it is unfortunate that sometimes it takes a significantly longer amount of time to respond to other calls, especially if/when more priority calls come in during that timeframe. It is for that reason that front counter staff was made available to take reports for less urgent matters.

Legal and Professional Standards Division – Lieutenant Patterson (for Captain Loui)

- Nine officers started FTO in May and are doing well.
- Seven officers were hired on 5/2 and will go to the state academy on 6/6.
- Our latest hiring cycle has 8 candidates in the background process with an expected hire date of 7/18. Five uncertified officers (recently lost 3 to other agencies) and 3 certified officers.
- The Training Unit is researching the case of MPD Officer Frank Dustin who died of an apparent heart attack in 1918 while pursuing a subject in Stark Park. Based on the initial review, his death likely qualifies to be added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Wall as well as the New Hampshire Memorial Wall. We are still gathering documentation at this point.
- Our new Legal Process Officer (subpoena service) started in mid-April and has been a resounding success to this point. More civilians are being served than ever and our prosecuting offices are pleased with the result.
- There are currently 520 sex offenders in Manchester. 216 registrations were completed in May and 67 compliance checks were conducted. There are currently 8 offenders under investigation and 5 arrest warrants were issued in May.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Commissioner Sherman inquired if the Legal Process Officer is an officer position and was advised by Lieutenant Patterson that it is a uniformed officer position.
- Commissioner Sherman asked how close we are to a full complement and was advised by Assistant Chief Mangone that we currently have 12 vacancies.
- Commissioner Content asked if we have a diverse blend of officers at the state academy and was advised that we do.

Investigative Division – Lieutenant Houghton (for Captain Leighton)

- Captain Loui and Captain Leighton are currently in Montana checking on the progress of the Crime Scene Van and finalizing details with an anticipated arrival date of mid/late August.
- We recently received updated cameras and audio equipment as part of the new case cracker interview room video system.
- With the end of the school year approaching, plans are being made to reassign SRO's to Patrol and Investigative positions.
- The Evidence Unit will soon receive new refrigerators and storage equipment.
- Still working with the Attorney General's office on the Carpenter Center homicide.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Commissioner Sherman asked if the SRO's receive any formal training relating to active shooter or other school threats and was advised that all officers, regardless of whether they are assigned specifically to a school, receive training in active threats.
- Commissioner Cronin inquired if there are SRO's in every school and was advised that all high schools, middle schools and MST are assigned an SRO and some of them rotate to elementary schools in their assigned areas throughout the day.
- Commissioner Content asked if S.W.A.T. would be sent to the schools in an active shooter situation and was advised that officers closest to the threat are trained to locate and mitigate the threat as backup units, including S.W.A.T. would be responding. Currently, we have five S.W.A.T. officers integrated into each of our patrol shifts – this was done so that in a critical incident requiring S.W.A.T., these officers can establish an immediate response to the threat and assess and provide guidance if any additional response is needed.

Patrol Division – Captain McCabe

- Last month six of our K9 teams traveled to western Massachusetts for their annual patrol certification. This is a certification/competition combining two days of judged events from Region 4 of the United States Police Canine Association. Our teams competed with 22 police K9 teams from Massachusetts and Connecticut. All of our teams passed, earning their national patrol certifications. Their preparation and hard work was evident on the fields.
- The 9 officers who began their FTO training in May are anticipated to complete their training at the end of July.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Commissioner Sherman asked if the six K9 teams who competed were all of MPD's teams and was advised that we have seven teams. There used to be nine teams but we have scaled back.

5. COMMENTS FROM ASSISTANT CHIEF MANGONE

- Our 9 recruits from the 187th Academy started FTO earlier in May. Barring any extensions, they will be released as solo officers sometime in early to mid-July.
- The 7 uncertified new hires will begin their state training as part of the 189th FTA beginning on 6/6.
- We currently have 12 vacancies.
- Lieutenant Barter will be presenting the Fusus program to the commission. This platform will expedite intelligence gathering and provide greater efficiency of response to critical incidents and criminal investigations as they unfold. Further, the platform provides a community-facing web portal for private video camera registration, thereby providing the ability to identify the location of cameras in proximity to incidents as well as a means for efficient outreach to collect recorded video and images from both public and private camera owners.

6. FUSUS PRESENTATION FROM LIEUTENANT BARTER

- Lieutenant Barter gave a presentation on the Fusus Program

7. COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

8. TENTATIVE DATE OF THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

- Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.
- Reminder that there is no meeting in July

9. END OF PUBLIC SESSION

- The Public Session ended at 10:14 a.m.